More on the Image

I read your article of July 17 titled "The Image Builder Was Always His Best Client." I note that much of the material contained has already been printed in what has been termed my "obituary" written by Washington's distinguished correspondent Littlewood, for the Chicago *Sun Times*.

In reply to Mr. Littlewood, I suggested that, as in the case of Mark Twain, reports of my "death" have been grossly exaggerated. Harwood's profile of me is very interesting although it contains many inaccuracies, even though apparently Mr. Harwood did a very thorough job of research. I compliment him for it.

I am sure the record will show Mr. Harwood's appraisal of me somewhat distorted—but I will leave that to history — in which, if I deserve even an inch, will pass final judgment on over 40 years in public life. I am satisfied of the record, and am proud of it.

I would like, however, to correct some of the more obvious errors. No soldier is awarded the "Soldier's Medal for Heroism" for rescuing "trucks." I received mine on the recommendation of Admiral Halsey and General Lincoln (some more of my "errand boys") who were witnesses to the disaster in New Caledonia. The causalty list during that disaster, killed and injured, numbered in excess of one thousand. The medal was for saving lives not trucks and is awarded only when risking your own life above and beyond the call of duty. I suggest that Mr. Harwood read the copy of the citation.

As for my service during World War I, it is true that I lied about my age as did hundreds of others and I am proud of it. As soon as I was able to, I reported to the Military Authorities in Paris. The war was still on. I was assigned as a Field Clerk which now is the equivalent of Warrant Officer.

In World War II I took a quartermaster battalion to the South Pacific but was then put in charge of a combat group which included infantry, artillery, combat engineers and other units besides the transportation units mentioned by Mr. Harwood. I might add that the Soldier's Medal was not my only decoration during the Second World War. I was also awarded The Legion of Merit, with two clusters, the Bronze Star, the French Legion of Honor and the Philippine Distinguished Service Cross.

Mr. Harwood's indictment is to some degree true. I have been and still am concerned with my own image. It is just another way of saying that I am sensitive about my reputation, and I certainly am that, not because of the fact that it affects my business alone but also because I am concerned with living out my years as a respected citizen, and I have not lost hope of realizing my dream of serving my country in an elected office.

It surely is disappointing, that in what appears to be such a complete job of research, Mr. Harwood did not take the first obvious step of any good reporter, i.e., to interview the man about whom he is writing. In this respect, as in several otners, Mr. Harwood seems to be following closely in the footsteps of Messrs. Pearson and Anderson. Even though I consider Mr. Harwood a highly reputable newspaperman, he, like all of us, is human—and bound to make mistakes.

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